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University of South Carolina, Office of Student Media

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PLANET VALIDITY UP IN AIR

*Pluto’s planet status
insignificant in future
Astronomy courses*

Kim Ruprecht
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The debate has ranged from the scientific world to “Honk if Pluto is Still a Planet” bumper stickers.

The International Astronomical Union recently passed a new definition of planetary validity, downgrading Pluto from its planetary status.

As The Washington Post reports, to be considered a planet, three criteria must be met.

The alleged planet must be in orbit around the sun, have sufficient mass for self-gravity to make it nearly round and have “cleared the neighborhood” around its orbits.

“Dwarf planets,” as the IAU has redefined Pluto, may meet the first two criteria, but fall short of the last requirement. Pluto has not cleared the neighborhood of its orbit, surrounded by Kuiper Belt Objects.

“I think its kind of weird that one day I’m going to be able to tell my grandchildren that back when I was a kid, there was a planet named Pluto,” said Ifi Flores, a second-year psychology student.

Technicalities aside, Pluto is still the same object it always was, just redefined.

While concern may arise in academia as to whether this decision will change curriculum, this new definition of Pluto shouldn’t hold too much gravity in astronomy classrooms across campus.

The greatest change in education would be “the addition of tables including Dwarf Planets,” said astronomy professor Dan Overcash. “Our sun is one of one hundred billion stars to study, and, less than one-ninth of one percent of astronomy courses would, maybe be changed to accommodate this.”

Pluto is not generally harped on in astronomy classes, because it “is has a minor affect of the course,” Overcash said.

PLUTO • 7

index

Crossword.....

Classifieds.....

Horoscopes.....

Opinion.....

Police Report.....

11

14

11

8

2

Keeping an eye on Facebook

*Student affairs Web site aims to prevent,
educate users on potential dangers*

Gina Vasselli
STAFF WRITER

Facebook and Myspace are two of the most popular Web sites for college students, but they are also two of the most dangerous, according to a new Web site sponsored by USC’s division of Student Affairs.

The site, called Let’s Face It, addresses the many issues students should be aware of when using Facebook and Myspace.

Let’s Face It offers tips to keep students safe when they are using the Internet, such as keeping their exact birthdates private.

“Those sites are not private, they are not temporary and lots of people are using these sites for a variety of reasons,” said Dennis Pruitt, vice president of Student Affairs. “There are safety issues when someone posts a lot of personal information. A

person who wants to stalk them 0 it gives them a lot of information that they (students) wouldn’t want them to have.”

Pruitt said some students have encountered problems as a result of information they shared online.

“We’ve had some students who’ve had to change their cell phone number because they posted it and people were bothering them,” he said.

Aside from safety issues, many employers are now using Facebook and Myspace to find out more about students before hiring them.

Let’s Face It offers tips to help students searching for jobs, such as remembering to keep posts to other students respectful since they can be read by anyone.

“We want to make sure students are aware that

FACEBOOK • 5

The Do’s and Don’ts of Facebook

facebook

home search browse invite help logout

South Carolina

Search

My Profile edit

My Friends

My Photos

My Notes

My Groups

My Events

My Messages

My Account

My Privacy

Information edit

Account Info [edit]

Do not post an exact address, use just the city.

Do not post a landline phone number, it can be traced to an address.

Do not post unflattering pictures, think about how your grandma would feel looking at them.

Do not join groups that could harm your chances of getting a job.

Do not curse or otherwise threaten someone on their “wall”; anyone can read it and it could be seen as harassment.

www.dailygamecock.com

Use the site to help yourself academically by setting up study groups or connecting with people in your class.

Join groups that you think are funny, just remember that anyone can see what groups you belong to.

Remember that while you can erase a profile or a picture it was recorded somewhere.

Source: USC Office of Student Affairs

Mike Conway / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Transit develops with campus

*USC community
benefits from new
shuttle routes*

Drew Brooks
STAFF WRITER

The “ShuttleCock,” as the Carolina Shuttle as been recently dubbed, serves the university community by transporting students, faculty, staff and visitors throughout campus.

Nine buses serve six color-coded routes that crisscross campus.

Five of these buses are brand new, with two funded by Student Government.

Two buses service the three most popular routes.

The Red route covers the Coliseum, the Horseshoe, Pendleton Garage, Capstone and the Greek Village. The Blue route runs from the Coliseum to Coker Life Sciences to the Blatt and then to the Nursing Building.

The Yellow route covers Bates House, Nursing and Catawba Street.

The other three routes are Green, which circles Bates House, Catawba Street, Coker Life Sciences and Swearingen; AM Express, which runs a loop from the Coliseum to the Law School and then to the Horseshoe; and North Loop, with stops at 1600 Hampton St., Barnwell Street, Capstone, Nursing, the National Advocacy Center and McMaster

College.

Carmen Wiggins, a second-year graphic design student, said she rarely uses the shuttle, but finds that when she does, she can tell that she just barely misses it by glancing at the NextBus display.

“The clocks tend to be pretty accurate,” Wiggins said.

All the buses can be tracked by utilizing the NextBus system, found at the Parking Services Web site and at www.nextbus.com

Global Positioning System trackers in each bus can be accessed from the Web site to determine how long of a wait before each bus arrives. This information can also be viewed at some stops.

Derrick Huggins has been deputy director of Vehicle Management and Parking Services for seven years. He said he’s watched as the campus has swelled and more and more students arrive each year.

“It’s a true challenge to make sure we keep in mind the university as it changes,” Huggins said.

Huggins said his chief goal is to balance everyone’s needs, including commuting students, resident students, faculty and staff and visitors to the university, all of which want to “park right beside their door,” he said.



Brandon Davis / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Students board the Green line shuttle near the Coker Life Sciences building.

There is typically a 10 to 15 minute wait between shuttles, but can be affected by traffic, lights, trains or other mitigating circumstances.

Arthur Ketchel, a third-year computer science student, said he has been using the shuttle system for two years to get to his class in Swearingen.

Ketchel said the system was pretty easy to learn and understand, but added that at times, not worth the wait.

“It’s quicker to walk sometimes,” Ketchel said.

The university bases its parking and shuttle plans on the needs, safety and timeliness needed for the campus community.

Five shuttles stop at the Coliseum, which is where commuter students are recommended to park. More shuttles stop at perimeter parking than anywhere on campus, to encourage students to use them.

“We want our commuter students to ride shuttles,” Huggins said. “The more people that ride the buses, the more [buses] we can add.”

Currently, about 5,000 people ride the ShuttleCock each school day. If that number continues to rise,

SHUTTLE • 5



CAROLINA BRIEF

Toddlers welcome at research center

The Child Development and Research Center is now accepting 3- and 4-year old students.

The \$4.1 million center was opened in September 2003 to establish a national model for early childhood education. The child development center on the first floor of the building provides an all-day year-round service for up to 200 children. The second level of the building includes offices, faculty research and observation areas, a classroom with technological enhancements, and a classroom with digital audiovisual, internet, and TV production capabilities.

In July of 2006, the center was awarded accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. To be awarded this accreditation, a facility must meet the highest national standards of quality programming for the young children, faculty, staff, students, and general public in the area of the facility.

THIS WEEK USC

TUESDAY
Ticket Distribution
9 a.m.-4 p.m., Russell House 205
The Daily Gamecock interest meeting
8 p.m. RH 304
WEDNESDAY
Student Organization Fair
11 a.m.-2 p.m., Greene Street
Josh Casey
6 p.m. RH Patio

ON THE WEB



www.dailygamecock.com

Read online five days a week. Sweet sassy molassey.

THEY'VE GOT A TICKET TO BRYCE



Meg Gaillard / THE GAMECOCK

USC students Vinh Doan, Tradd Davidson and Kyle Robertson waited in line from 6 to 9:30 a.m. Monday to get tickets to Carolina's first home game against Georgia.

State

Hurricane predicted to brush Lowcountry

CHARLESTON — South Carolinians kept a wary eye to sea Monday as Tropical Storm Ernesto moved across Cuba on a track that is expected to bring it north along the Atlantic coast.

While projections from the National Hurricane Center keep the center of the storm at sea, Ernesto could brush South Carolina with tropical storm force winds as it passes on Thursday, forecasters advised.

The center of Ernesto was projected to be just off the coast of Charleston with winds just below a Category 1 hurricane, according to the National Hurricane Center.

Maximum sustained winds were projected to be about 70 mph.

Hurricane Center advised that track errors average 260 miles.

Nation

Swans test negative for deadly flu virus

Bird flu found in a wild swan in Michigan was not the deadly Asian strain that has ravaged poultry and killed at least 141 people worldwide, the Agriculture Department said Monday.

Final tests performed by the National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa, confirmed the swan had a mostly harmless, low-pathogenic strain of the H5N1 virus, officials said.

Authorities found bird flu in two mute swans Aug. 14, but only one of the samples had high enough levels of flu to allow confirmatory tests. Earlier genetic analysis ruled out the more virulent Asian strain in both birds.

The low-grade strain has been found many times in North American wild birds and poses no threat to people, the department said.

World

On radio, rebel army says fighting will end

KAMPALA, Uganda — The leaders of a shadowy rebel movement that has terrorized Ugandans for nearly two decades went on local radio with a special announcement. As of Tuesday, their war is over — the Lord's Resistance Army will stop fighting.

The rebels, notorious for cutting off the tongues and lips of innocent civilians, enslaving tens of thousands of children and driving nearly 2 million people from their homes, have agreed to end one of the most brutal, but least known conflicts in the world.

They signed a truce with the government that gives rebel fighters three weeks to gather at two villages in largely uninhabited areas across the border in southern Sudan, where they will be protected and monitored.

Weather Forecast

TODAY



High 94
Low 75

WED.



High 90
Low 74

THURS.



High 81
Low 70

FRI.



High 79
Low 67

SAT.



High 79
Low 67

CRIME REPORT

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 23

Petit larceny, 7 p.m.
Bates House, 1423 Whaley St.

The victim said she left her wallet with various credit and gift cards on her desk and noticed it was missing the next morning.

Estimated value: \$200
Responding officer: J. Dupree

FRIDAY, AUG. 25
Malicious injury to real property, 8 a.m.

Williams-Brice Stadium, 1000 George Rogers Blvd.

Someone destroyed the shrubbery around the stadium.

Estimated damage: \$3,000
Responding officer: N. Husbands

Malicious injury to personal property, 2 p.m.

Williams-Brice Stadium, 1000 George Rogers Blvd.

Someone broke the back window of a 1998 white Nissan Pathfinder.

Estimated damage: \$200
Responding officer: N. Husbands

Petit larceny, 2:30 p.m.

USC Horseshoe, 902 Sumter St.

The two victims placed personal items including cell phones, keys, and wallets containing cash and debit cards in a gym bag and left it to play football. When they returned, the bag was missing.

Estimated value: \$289
Responding officer: J. Dupree

Malicious injury to real property, 7 p.m.

Moore, 601 Sumter St.
Housing staff

discovered someone wet the basement carpet using a fire hose.

Estimated damage: \$350
Responding officer: J. Dupree

SATURDAY, AUG. 26
Driving under the influence, 2:30 a.m.

Intersection of Blossom and Bull streets
Responding officer M.

L. Gooding reported that Charles R. McClure was driving from Five Points with no headlights and was seen repeatedly striking the curb with his tires. When stopped, McClure said he had two beers at about midnight. McClure failed field sobriety tests and had a blood alcohol content of .09.

Malicious injury to real property, 2:50 a.m.

Bull Street Garage

A police officer observed one of the gates to garage was damaged.

Estimated damage: \$1,500

Responding officer: K. Morgan

SUNDAY, AUG. 27

Driving under the influence, open container, assisting another agency, 12:45 a.m.

Shell Station, 830 Assembly St.

Frederick Simpkins was seen by a police officer stealing an 18-pack of Miller Lite and leaving the scene in a car with three other passengers. A search of the vehicle revealed the stolen beer and two other open beer cans in the backseat. Quentin Gaymon and Simpkins were charged for open containers while the driver, Rashad Nettles, was charged with driving with a suspended license.

Responding officer: K. Morgan

Petit larceny, 3:30 p.m.

Preston College, 1323 Greene St.

The two victims said someone removed their wallets from their rooms. Both wallets contained cash, insurance cards, gift cards and credit cards.

Estimated value: \$288
Responding officer: J. Dupree

MONDAY, AUG. 28

Attempted theft, 5:21 a.m.

Nursing Building, 1621 College St.

A custodian reported an attempted break-in with a metal pole lodged into the drink dispenser opening of the drink machine. No damage was reported.

Responding officer: K. Morgan

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President visits New Orleans for first anniversary of Katrina catastrophe

*One year later,
Bush says recovery
still not complete*

Deb Riechmann
The Associated Press

BILOXI, Miss. — President Bush said Monday the huge job of rebuilding from Hurricane Katrina was just beginning a year after the massive storm but expressed hope that the \$110 billion of help sent from Washington would be enough.

Trying to erase the black mark left on his presidency by the administration's sluggish response to Katrina, Bush returned to the first scene he saw a year ago of the storm's devastation.

Standing on a vacant lot in a working class neighborhood where trailers and gutted buildings stand next to newly built homes, Bush pledged the federal government would stand with the region as it rebuilds. It's a promise viewed with skepticism by victims still reeling from the storm.

"A year ago, I committed our federal government to help you," Bush said. "I said, 'We have a duty to help the local people recover and rebuild,' and I meant what I said."

Of the \$110 billion in hurricane aid approved by Congress, just \$44 billion has been spent. Overall, the administration has released \$77 billion to the states, reserving the rest for future needs.

"Hopefully that'll work. Hopefully that's enough," Bush said after visiting a company that has restarted its business of building and repairing boats. "It's certainly enough to get us through the next period of time."

Bush focused on the positive, but acknowledged that much remains to be done.

"It's an anniversary, but it's not an end," Bush said. "Frankly it's just the

beginning."

Asked how long the rebuilding would take, Bush said: "I would say years, not months. On the other hand, the progress in one year's time has been remarkable."

The welcome Bush received in Biloxi was warmer than the one he is expected to get in Louisiana, where recovery efforts have moved much more slowly. The president ended the day in New Orleans, dining at Mother's Restaurant, a local institution known for its po'boys and red beans and rice, with Mayor Ray Nagin, Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco and other local leaders. Bush has a half-day of events Tuesday — the actual anniversary of Katrina — in New Orleans.

"There is a division over there," Thomas "Lynn" Patterson, who gave Bush a tour of his new home in Biloxi, said about New Orleans. "There's not the same division over here."

When Bush visited Patterson's neighborhood right after the storm, the 61-year-old was digging cars out of the muck. Patterson said Bush told him then that he wanted to make sure that people got the aid they needed.

"He hasn't forgotten it," said Patterson. "We don't expect him to pull out his wallet and write a check for us. He personally would do it if he could because he's a passionate guy."

When Katrina struck Biloxi, 100-mph-plus winds and a wall of water obliterated a bridge and splintered houses like matchsticks. Water topped rooftops. Entire neighborhoods were washed away.

Today, seven of the city's gambling emporiums, which employed 15,000 people before Katrina, have reopened or are close to doing so. Still, just blocks away from the gambling resorts, rebuilding is sparse. It's a city where buildings still carry spray-painted messages appealing for help from insurance companies.

Bush had lunch at the Biloxi Schooner Seafood Restaurant, where owner Joe Lancon fed the president and other government officials fried shrimp, stuffed crab and gumbo. Lancon reopened the restaurant in the west end of the city after losing two restaurants in Katrina's 28-foot tidal surge.

Asked if he wanted to rebuild at his original site closer to the water, Lancon replied: "Do I want to? Yes.

Am I? I don't know. The water really kinda has me second-guessing whether I'm going to go back down there."

"It's going to take a while for Biloxi to get back to normal," said Lancon, a native whose grandfather was a shrimp peeler. "I would say maybe five years. It's a slow building process."

Nationwide polls give Bush low marks on Katrina. An AP-Ipsos poll earlier this month showed 67 percent

disapproved of his handling of the disaster.

With Hurricane Ernesto bearing down on Florida, Democrats have been coordinating a political assault on the Bush administration's Katrina response, hoping to sway voters to cast ballots against Republicans in the upcoming congressional elections and beyond.

House Democrats on Monday toured devastated areas of New Orleans and

decried the slow pace of recovery. "I think the American public is going to be very, very surprised to know this recovery is way, way behind what their expectations would have been," Rep. James Clyburn, D-S.C., said after a tour that took more than a dozen Democratic members of Congress through the heavily hit Ninth Ward.

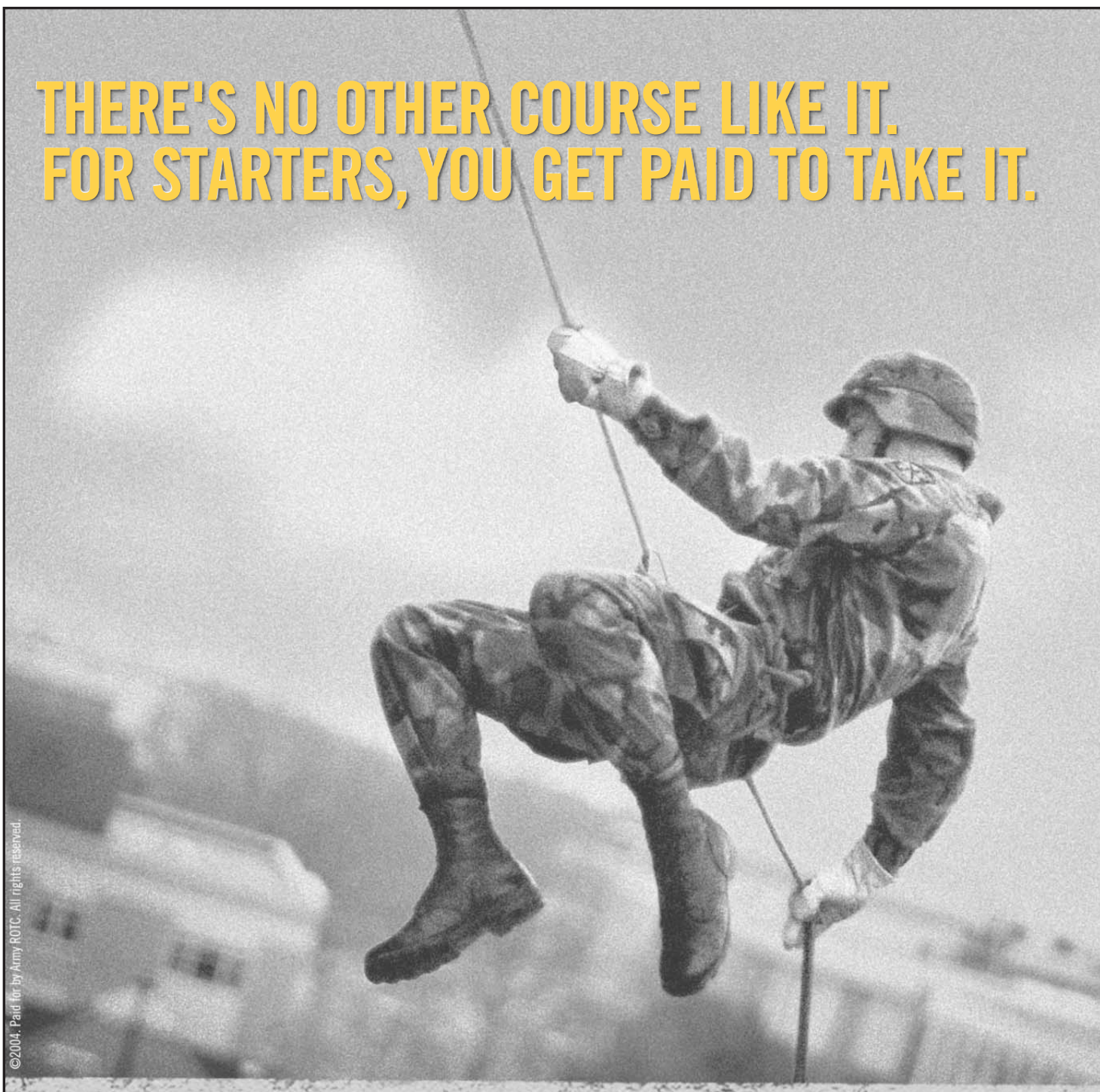
"It's hard to believe this is the United States," said Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md.



LM Otero / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oswald Jones leads a birthday celebration march through the Treme section of New Orleans, Monday, Aug. 28. The march is for Hector Campbell who was born the day before Hurricane Katrina hit the city.

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FACEBOOK • Continued from 1

there are consequences for the way they portray themselves,” said Pruitt. “Employers are looking at the way they portray themselves on these sites and using it to determine if the person is a good fit for their company.”

Let’s Face It was started as a way to inform students about the risks and benefits of online communities, such as Facebook and Myspace.

“Not every student will read it or look at it, but hopefully some will and they’ll tell their friends,” Pruitt said. “We wanted to make sure students had a good understanding of what is happening with these online communities.”

Many students see the dangers of putting private information on the Internet and already take precautions to protect themselves.

People have to be really careful about what they put out there because if they think only their friends are going to look at it they re being naïve, said Nick McCormic, a third-year journalism student. If people want to find out about you they can so you have to be careful about what you supply.

Pruitt said he didn’t oppose the use of the Web sites, just the improper use of them.

“We want students to learn to use these communities the way they were intended to be used,” Pruitt said.

For more information, visit Let’s Face It at <http://www.sa.sc.edu/letsfaceit>.

WWW.
daily
gamecock
.COM

SHUTTLE • Continued from 1

VMPS will add more buses to the more popular routes.

Huggins said he eventually wants enough buses to cut the wait time down to five to seven minutes.

Faculty and staff members are given spots close to or at their respective buildings so that entire classes will not suffer from a late professor or instructor.

Visitors are given parking on the core of campus. Parking for visitors can be found in both the Pendleton and Bull streets garages.

Huggins said he acknowledges that these spots are often used by students as well, but stresses that students should not rely on them, as they are not always dependable and vary by

the number of visitors on campus.

Resident students are encouraged to use the various garages and “S” lots found throughout campus. Their close proximity to dorms is to give resident students an added element of safety when returning to their rooms late at night or after work.

Aside from weekdays, Game Day Shuttles are also available one hour before and after each basketball game and one hour and 30 minutes before and 30 minutes after each football game.

Two evening shuttles operate from 6 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., whenever classes are in session for added safety to students traveling across campus at night.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu

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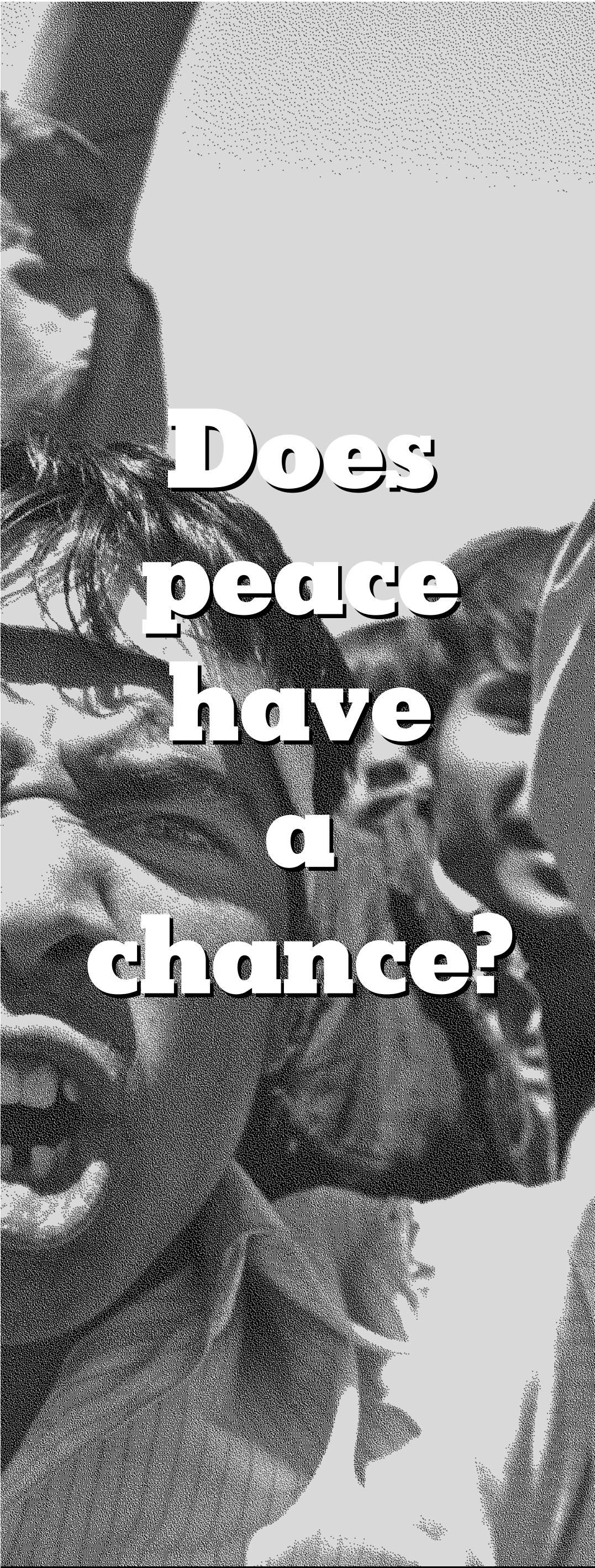
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British government asks for extradition
of Pakistani suspect in hijacking scheme

Sadaqat Jan
The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan—Pakistan is considering a British request for the extradition of Rashid Rauf, who was arrested earlier this month in connection with the alleged plot to blow up U.S.-bound jetliners, the Foreign Ministry said Monday.

Rauf —earlier identified by Pakistan as a “key person” in the plot —was being investigated for alleged links with al-Qaida, in connection with terrorist threats in Britain and in Pakistan, said ministry spokeswoman Tasnim Aslam.

Aiden Liddle, a spokesman for the British Embassy, confirmed it had submitted the extradition request, but said it was in connection with a British investigation into a 2002 murder. Rauf moved to Pakistan shortly after his maternal uncle was stabbed to death that year.

Aslam said Pakistan would provide legal assistance to Rauf, a British citizen who also holds Pakistani nationality.

Pakistani officials have said Rauf helped coordinate

the alleged plot to bomb trans-Atlantic jetliners that was thwarted in Britain this month, working under an al-Qaida mastermind based in neighboring Afghanistan. Britain announced Aug. 10 that it had broken up the plot by arresting about two dozen people across that country. Stricter security rules were immediately imposed at Britain’s airports and elsewhere, causing widespread disruptions in air travel for days.

The New York Times reported Monday that British police moved in after surveillance equipment monitored two young Muslim men making a “martyrdom” tape justifying the planned suicide attacks on airliners as revenge against the United States and its allies Britain and Israel.

The Times quoted unidentified British officials as saying considerable progress had been made in planning the attacks, but the alleged plotters had not obtained plane tickets and weren’t ready to strike. Police, however, decided to act because they feared there might be an attack by other

plotters unknown to them, the Times said.

Pakistan has detained at least seven people in its own investigation of the alleged plot, but has identified only Rauf.

On Saturday, Interior Minister Aftab Khan Sherpao said Rauf had given Pakistani interrogators “vital clues” about the plot. He also said Rauf had “wider international links” and was in touch with an Afghanistan-based al-Qaida leader. He did not provide any details.

Aslam said the information from Pakistan’s investigation was being shared with Britain.

She also said Rauf had been arrested in Rawalpindi, a city near Islamabad. Intelligence officials said earlier that he was picked up in Bhawalpur, a stronghold of the outlawed militant group Jaish-e-Mohammed in eastern Pakistan.

According to an in-law of Rauf’s, he settled in Bhawalpur after emigrating from Britain and was tied by marriage to Masood Azhar, leader of Jaish-e-Mohammed, fueling suspicions that Pakistani militants could be linked to the jetliner plot.

Britain and the U.S. have praised the role played by Pakistan for its role in thwarting the plot. Pakistan is a key counterterrorism ally of the West but has also been plagued for years by Islamic militancy.



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Conservative Mexican president-elect's office uncertain pending vote recount

Traci Carl
The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Mexico's ruling party candidate held onto his narrow lead in the disputed presidential election after a partial recount of votes, the top electoral court said Monday in a strong indication that conservative Felipe Calderon will be declared the winner.

But the judges held off on naming the president-elect and still have the option to annul the election.

Calderon's leftist challenger Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador reacted to the court's announcement in outrage, calling on supporters never to accept Calderon as president and asking them to decide if he should form a parallel government or carry on a nationwide campaign of protests.

"We will never allow an illegal and illegitimate government to be installed in our country," he told thousands gathered in Mexico City's central plaza, calling acceptance of Calderon tantamount to a coup d'etat.

Calderon said he was satisfied with the tribunal's decision because it supported the votes of millions of Mexicans.

"We are on the right path," he said.

The Federal Electoral Tribunal announced the number of votes it had annulled as the result of 375 challenges to the July 2 election, reducing Calderon's 240,000-vote lead over Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador by just over 4,000 votes.



Dario Lopez-Mills / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mexican presidential candidate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador waves as he embraces Luis Daniel Nava, left, one of 20 supporters who walked from the border city of Tijuana to Mexico City, 2,891 km (about 1,800 miles), demanding a vote by vote recount, during a meeting at Mexico City's main Zocalo plaza Monday Aug. 28. Lopez Obrador reacted in outrage after the country's top electoral court said the partial recount in Mexico's disputed presidential race won't erase conservative candidate Felipe Calderon's lead, and called on his supporters to never accept Calderon as president and asking them to decide if he should form a parallel government or carry on a nationwide campaign of protests.

However, the judges held off on announcing a final vote tally or ruling on Lopez Obrador's allegation that the ruling party used illegal tactics during the campaign, both of which must be decided by Sept. 6. If they agree the ruling party broke the law, they could annul the election, though that now seems unlikely.

Lopez Obrador had demanded a full recount of all 41 million votes, claiming that would swing the lead in his favor. Instead, the top electoral court ordered a recount of the 9 percent of all the polling places where they believed there was evidence of irregularities.

Lopez Obrador's party has argued the campaign

was dirty and that fraud was responsible for Calderon's slight lead—which amounted to 0.6 percent of the ballots cast. He and his supporters have also questioned the Federal Electoral Tribunal's ability to resolve the dispute fairly. After the results of

the partial recount, Lopez Obrador said "the judges made a political decision, not a judicial one."

"Today the Electoral Tribunal decided to validate the fraud against the will of the citizens expressed at the ballot boxes," he said.

PLUTO • Continued from 1

What seems to be more of pertinent interest and excitement in the astronomical world are the ever-expanding discoveries in our and other solar systems.

"There have been over two hundred stars with planets discovered, and 40 more planets in our solar system beyond Pluto," Overcash said.

The debate over Pluto is "so small of a matter, it just doesn't matter," he added.

However, there seem to be some astronomically inclined insurgencies, laying claim to Plutonian loyalties.

While the IAU reached its verdict based on a majority vote, scientists and Pluto supporters alike have responded with massive backlash.

Web sites and communities like PleaseSavePluto.org, have started petitions in hopes of reversing this decision.

"I think anyone who originally learned that there are nine planets in the solar system will always think of Pluto as a planet," said Kati Jagger, a third-year English student. "Pluto, you'll always be in our hearts."

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu

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IN OUR OPINION

Iran’s anger nothing next to crazy Korea

The whole world has been bubbling over Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s April 11 announcement that Iran has finally succeeded in enriching uranium. Both the United States and Israel have been up in arms over the statement, and the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution demanding that Iran immediately cease all nuclear activities.

But where’s the outrage for a much more potent nuclear threat — North Korea?

Although Iran has successfully enriched uranium, some experts say it’s doubtful the country will be

It’s time to put this issue in the proper context and put some focus on North Korea.

able to produce any nuclear weapons until at least 2009. Not only does North Korea already possess nuclear weapons, it has said it isn’t afraid to use them.

Following the isolated nation’s July 4 missile tests, which included the testing of a long-range Taepodong-2 missile capable of reaching U.S. soil, North Korean President Kim Jong-il threatened our country with nuclear war if we responded to the tests with military force.

And, of course, there has been no action. Our government has barely lifted a finger in response, despite President Bush including North Korea in his “Axis of Evil” following the attacks of Sept. 11.

As usual, the Middle East gets all of the attention, while that lunatic Kim Jong-il plays around like a child with his radioactive toys.

Make no mistake: Iran’s nuke program is a valid problem. But it’s time to put this issue in the proper context and put some focus on North Korea, a country ruled by a real nut case who actually has the means to harm our country with a nuclear strike. Sure, Israel is our ally, but let’s look after ourselves first.

CORRECTIONS

If you see an error in today’s paper, we want to know about it. E-mail us at gamecockopinions@gwm.sc.edu

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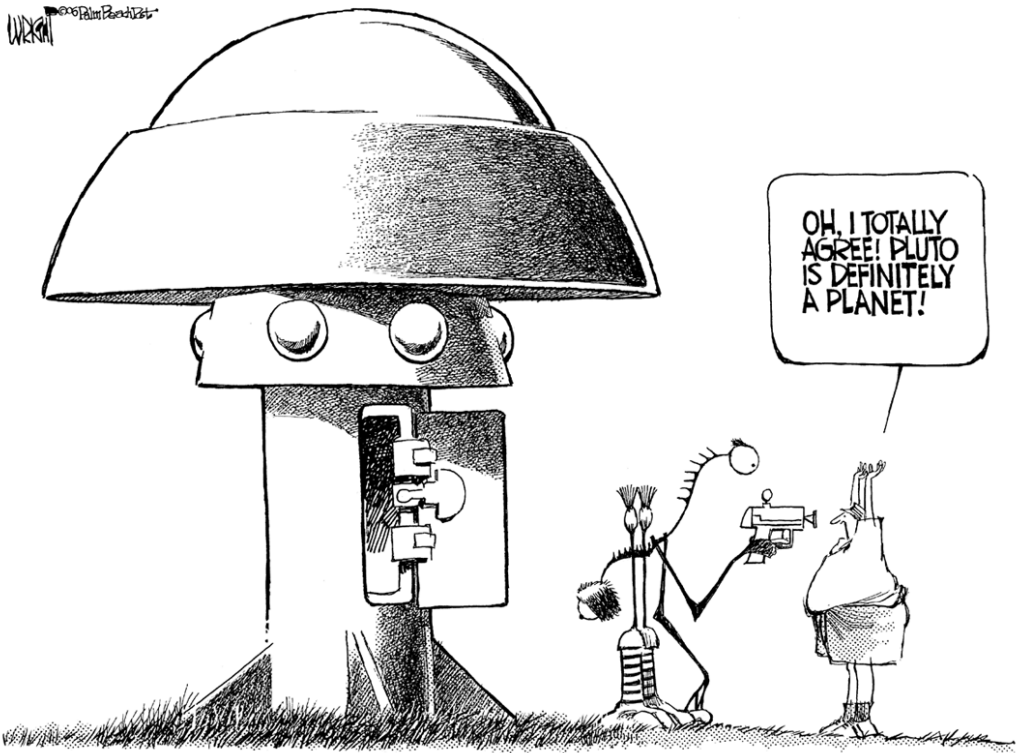
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Seniors deserve free absences for toil

Professors require new perspective on outdated calendar practices, rules

So I tend to get angrier as I get older, and the question is put out about whether it is me getting crankier or the world getting stupider. Personally, I side with the second of the two options.

A senior deserves kudos for putting up with three or more years of inept USC bureaucracy, insane professors, bad parking, fatty food and drunk-dialing. It does not mean freshmen, sophomores or juniors are somehow inferior (you are, but I’m trying to be nice), it just means you don’t have the many years of pain and suffering behind you. In your upcoming years, you will attain senior status and be able to lord it over the lowerclassmen, but right now just sit down and look interested.

Class attendance policies absolutely bloody suck and are designed to infuriate me. Normally you would



AARON BRAZIER
Fifth-year philosophy student

say, “this columnist is paranoid”. But it’s not paranoia if it’s true.

Look, I have taken a lot of difficult classes. Professor Obvious, your 201-level class is not going to thrust me into panic stations because you thought you blew my mind (you didn’t, I was just being nice again). Surviving a lower level class is not an issue to me anymore; being able to read a syllabus is incredibly easy, and learning the quirks of professors is a second nature.

Yet somehow if I choose to take anything but Mental Deconstruction 501, they have to appeal to the lowest common denominator — I’m looking at you freshmen — and design the classes like we’re all crazy psychopaths with no appreciation for reality. After 10 percent of missed classes, professors can punish a student by

an entire letter grade or more. What a complete pile of asinine, irrelevant garbage.

An attendance policy for your first year seems sensible. But if you know how to study, where the library is and you keep up with reading, you can easily miss more than 10 percent of classes and do well enough for an “A.” The punishment for someone not attending class should be missing the lecture, wherein information about tests or essays is not revealed to that person. This punishment would be designed for what I like to call “adults,” people who take responsibility for their lives.

Dropping the class attendance policy would certainly make me and undoubtedly many others feel like they are treated as adults, and would encourage them to stand on their own two feet more. USC should never punish students for being bad students; isn’t that exactly what grades are for?

Self respect comes before taking abuse

Don’t get annoyances mixed up with violent, destructive behaviors

Lately, I have been thinking about all the work we put into relationships.

My boyfriend and I go through the ups and downs that are so annoyingly typical in long-term relationships. I can handle those moments, but this past week I helped him move to Clemson. This made me think about how common it is in our love lives that we find ourselves asking the unanswerable: Is the difficulty really worth it?

It seems like we go through all these fiery rings and lion dens of problems just to put ourselves within aiming distance of a broken heart. At any moment that special someone could withdraw his or her offer of “happily ever after,” and where would that leave poor Cinderella?

Don’t ask me; I don’t think anyone has the answer to that question except the one posing such a nail-biter. In some cases, calling it quits should



LIZ WHITE
Third-year print journalism student

be at the top of the agenda, and in others holding out for the moment when it pays off is the best option.

Whatever the correct answer is, it should be because of you, the questioner, and you alone. If I only know one thing about relationships, which may very well be true, it’s that not enough people take control of their lives and their messed up relationships.

I once had a friend cry and cry because she always dated mean guys, jerks and losers, but the truth is she did that to herself. She chose those kinds of guys and allowed all those complications to take over her fairytale. Every week, cable television makes a killing telling stories of women (or men) who let their significant others rule their lives. Women get abused all the time because they can’t stand up and say, “This is my life and my body, not yours.”

The women’s movement hasn’t come this far to let others knock us down because they are physically stronger. During the past few decades women have more than proven that they are just as capable as men. Women should be proud enough and strong enough to stand up and tell that bully to stop pushing them around.

I’m sick of those “My boyfriend is a jerk and made me cry” phone calls. Don’t keep going back for more abuse; just accept that walking away really is the best thing for you. Maybe it is a problem that life isn’t like a fairytale, a movie or any kind of fictitious story ready to promise an “ever after” of Clemson-less bliss, but bad relationships come and go on your command alone.

It is obvious to me that sticking with someone who abuses you - verbally, mentally or physically - is a dumb thing to do. And knowing the difference between abuse and putting up with his quirks is important. Bad habits can be worth all the work, even though Clemson still sucks.

Old dorms gone, best times fondly remembered

Honeycomb leaves mark on all who called it home, freshman rite of passage

They weren’t pretty. They didn’t offer much privacy. They weren’t state of the art, suite style, crème-de-la-crème college dorms.

But by God I had the best two years of my life there.

The Towers, or as those of us who have been around Columbia awhile call them, “the Honeycombs,” were my on-campus housing for my first two years of college, and I loved every minute.

When I came to USC as a freshman I lived in Snowden on the sixth floor, or as we came to call it, The Lounge at Sixth Floor Snowden.

There was an open door policy in the hall, as in, everybody had a door open and people just roamed. What made my room so “suite”? I lived by myself and I had a couch. My buddies used to come in and just lounge around, watch a game, or talk about the problems of life for hours on end. It was a place to relax, unwind and get some perspective on things.

It was also a place to play some poker, and that we did. What started as just a friendly game quickly turned into nightly competitions that lasted until 6 a.m. and even ended up in the elevator one night.

Hall ball, “Starcraft,” “Madden” tournaments, dice, airsoft gun shootouts, and the occasional wild night of partying were all common in the hall. Guys earned names like Screamer, Yorkie, Sober Sam, Paul Bunyan, and Gimp all from incidents that happened around the hall.

It was even the last place I saw my friend before he took his life. He sat on my couch and we talked for about 20 minutes right before Thanksgiving break. That weekend he passed away.

Last year, I took the offer to live in LaBorde with the single housing again. It wasn’t exactly the same larger than life experience, but it was cool.

Many nights, guys would roam the hall to the smell of stuff cooking or the sound of video games being played, the guys were wasting time when they should’ve been studying.

That’s what made the Honeycombs so great.

Sure they smelt, they had hall baths, the hot water hardly ever worked, and it wasn’t the Hilton on south Main. But it was home, and everybody who did their tour of duty there is proud to have come through.

The new complex for the honors college scheduled for construction is nice. It is the definition of luxury for the college student; classrooms, suite style rooms, and a café are just some of the things slated to go in there.

But it will never be the Honeycombs.



ALEX RILEY
Third-year print journalism student

Eye-catching accessories flood campus with bling

Messenger bags, large purses, iPod among fashion favorites we can’t leave home without

Taking a look at the thousands of students walking around campus, I notice the outfits people are wearing, which right now consist of shorts, T-shirts and flip flops to avoid from melting. But it is the accessories that catch my eye the most. These things are what make a person stand out from the rest and right now you may be thinking jewelry or a bag, but there is more to fashion than that.



ERINN PASQUALE
Third-year German student

I would like to address this year’s vamped-up backpack first. I love walking around campus and seeing people carrying the most interesting bags, but I’m not talking about Vera Bradley bags; they are so popular now. I see it as a North Face backpack. The oversized purse or tote bag is the best; it’s a two-for-one kind of deal. No need to carry two bags anymore, ladies, because you can carry the books and cell phone and whatever else in one. The best part about the bag is that it comes in millions of colors, styles and textures that can appeal to everyone from leather lovers to vegans. Now guys’ messenger bags are great. Many run from canvas to suede and all sizes to accommodate the laptop or just books. If you do not want to be the average Joe pay attention to the strap because many come in every color combination you can think of, and that is eye-catching and pops out to people passing you.

Now here is where I’m really disappointed in the girls. Ladies, I know the perfect pair of shoes make the outfit, but are heels worth the pain after five minutes of walking on the horrible bricks around campus? I see some girls walking around in stilettos, as their heels are hanging off the back of the shoe and the straps are cutting into their heels and the actual heel of the shoe looks like it’s going to break off. To avoid the pain, look into a nice wedge heel. It has a thicker sole and provides more support for the foot instead of a heel that is as thin as a twig and absorbs no shock and kills the foot.

I know girls like to have more than one pair of shoes and that is why they love to go to Target and Payless, but if you want a really great pair of shoes you know you will wear all the time, invest the money into a more expensive pair because they are constructed to be comfortable and last a long time. They are a great investment when most of the student body is always going to interviews for jobs and meetings for student organizations.

BLING ● 10



Kelly Bobrow / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Toby Lightman, who describes her music as “folky” and “organic,” plays on the Russell House Patio on Monday night.

TOBY LIGHTMAN

Singer/songwriter brings soulful sounds back to USC

Caroline DeSanctis & Andrea Lucas
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The Daily Gamecock: Is this your first time in S.C.?
Toby Lightman: I just played in Charleston Sunday night, but I have played here once before with Howie Day. The crowd here was great.

TDG: Did you go to college?
TL: Yes. I went to the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and I majored in Communication Arts.

TDG: Do you play any instruments beside

guitar?
TL: I’ve played the violin since I was six and actually played it on both of my records.

TDG: How has your music evolved since your career started?
TL: I’ve definitely gone into a more organic place and there is more soul to the music.

TDG: Who do you look to for inspiration? Who influences you?
TL: So many people and so many kinds of music. I like Bill Withers, Donny

Hathaway, and Bonnie Raitt.

TDG: Have you ever played to college crowds before? How were those experiences?
TL: It’s cool because students are running it, but it’s basically a toss up. The crowds are great when they’re there though.

TDG: What goals do you have for yourself for the future?

TOBY ● 10

Oxygen, proper breathing key to better living, health guru says

Doug Worgul
McClatchy Newspapers

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The key to a healthier, more energetic, less stressful life is right under your nose. Actually, it is your nose. You need to use it properly to breathe better.

Andrew Weil, the holistic health guru, has said that if he could give only one tip for better health, it would be to breathe properly.

“Practicing regular, mindful breathing can be calming and

energizing,” Weil said. “And it can even help with stress-related health problems ranging from panic attacks to digestive disorders. Since breathing is something we can control and regulate, it is a useful tool for achieving a relaxed and clear state of mind.”

Pam Grout, a Lawrence, Kan.-based writer and lecturer who has authored a book on the subject -- “Jump Start Your Metabolism: How to Lose Weight by Changing the Way you Breathe” (Fireside 1998) -- says most people aren’t

getting the full capacity that they could.

Shallow breathing impoverishes our cells and slows our metabolism, Grout says. “Oxygen is the fuel that runs your body. It’s the gas that runs your trillions of cells. In fact, one of the main reasons exercise burns fat is because it increases the rate at which oxygen is delivered to your cells.”

Weil says learning to breathe properly -- slowly through the nose, out the mouth, deeply, using the diaphragm, not the chest - can

dramatically lower stress, lower heart rate, lower blood pressure and improve brain function.

THE BELLY TEST
Breath guru Pam Grout suggests taking the Belly Breath Test to determine whether you’re breathing properly:

Lie down.
Put a book on your belly and another on your chest.

Take a breath. If the book on your chest rises higher than the one on your belly, you’re not breathing as effectively as you could.

PROPER BREATHING

Slowly breathe in through your nose for a count of four. Push your belly out as you inhale, expanding your diaphragm. Let your belly and diaphragm do the work, not your chest.

Hold this breath in for a count of seven.

Exhale slowly through your mouth for a count of eight. When you exhale, try to make a soft “whoosh” sound by holding the tip of your tongue against the roof of your mouth.

Today's style-conscious students don't want to dress alike

Jackie White
McClatchy Newspapers

Watch old movies. Scan vintage fashion magazines. You get the message -- college students tended to dress very much alike in the old days.

Sweaters and pearls starred in one era. Blazers and preppy khakis ruled in another. Plaid grunge once dominated. But times change.

Today's young scholars are more creative. They may have many of the same items as their dorm roommates. They have the skinny dark blue jeans, the message T-shirts, hooded

sweatshirts and puffy vests. But do they want to look the same as their roommates? Probably not.

They prefer to set themselves apart with a little tweak. Making a statement is a priority. They'll mix unlikely layers and relish juxtapositions even when they draw raised eyebrows.

It's very important for women to show personal style," said Gregg Andrews, Midwest fashion director for Seattle-

based Nordstrom stores. Young women are wearing dresses over pants, skirts and shorts over cropped leggings and short jackets over long sweaters.

College men have the same yearning for individuality. They like the "crumpled look," Andrews said.

"A guy will wear a hooded sweatshirt and a puffy parka with shorts and thongs. They love thongs. They wear them with everything. But it should look as if it was picked up off the dorm room floor."

Even preppy and traditional pieces are worn in unconventional ways.

Polos are popped over long-sleeved T-shirts. An

argyle sweater is paired with a swirling skirt.

Today's students tend to have a casual attitude toward clothes, especially for class and especially at the start of the school year.

Marshal Cohen, senior fashion analyst for NPD, which tracks shopping trends, says students may buy a new pair of jeans but because they start out with summer clothes, they usually wait until later in the fall for serious shopping.

"They don't want to show up with stuff that was cool in Wisconsin but not in Chapel Hill, N.C.," Cohen said.

Evidence of the low-key approach can be found in the school-oriented fashion media. In July, Seventeen magazine promoted

Christina Aguilera's cover shot for the September issue, traditionally the back-to-school book.

At the same time, students are devoting money to furnishing dorm rooms and apartments. College kids have returned to fashion, Cohen says. For a time, they were spending their money on electronics. But now it's about the dorm room, having the cool coffeemaker, towels and pillows. "It's all about style," he said.

In general fashion trends, young women want to separate themselves from the guys. They are wearing skirts, Cohen says, and leggings are a surprise hit. Pants in menswear fabrics in a range of shapes, including wide legs, are likely hits. And

some women will love the gauchos.

A shift in clothing proportion is making the biggest news, says Patricia McCune, J.C. Penney's trend analyst for juniors. With leggings, high boots and skinny jeans, legs are a new focal point. They are balanced by longer tops and tunics often anchored by a wide belt. Layers are also important.

"Just put layers upon layers," McCune said.

For women, short, shrunken jackets are good basics that can be dressed up or down. For guys, the blazer will go from jeans to twill trousers to shorts.

Accessories offer a good way for women to explore personal style.



Courtesy fashionfixx.com

BLING • Continued from 9

If heels are not your thing, flats are a great alternative because not only are they comfortable, they are just as colorful and fashionable. I do not think I have ever said this, but I really envy guys this fall because of all the amazing choices in shoes they have. I have seen some of the best lines such as Vans, Pumas and Nike.

They come in styles and colors so good that I find it to be addictive to buy more than one pair. There is definitely no reason you should have to wear Rainbows every day.

My final favorite accessory is the one that only our generation can relate to because we are known as the iPod generation. iPods only come in so many colors, but with the invention of the

skin and case, your iPod can be anything you want. Many designers make leather cases with a signature picture or theme on them. There is also a DIY theme to the iPod: you can even paint your own theme on a rubber skin or put crystals or whatever you want with it. It totally makes the iPod unique, eye-catching and a great way to be this fall's trendsetter around campus.

TOBY • Continued from 9

TL: I'm trying to form a career for myself and be successful. I want to do this for my entire life.

TDG: What artists are you listening to right now?
TL: I'm into Death Cab for Cutie, Kathleen Edwards and Amos Lee.

TDG: Did you have a lot of creative freedom on your albums?
TL: Yeah, I had boundaries put on myself. [The label] wanted more R&B on the first album. Now, they know more about what I want to do.

TDG: Is there anyone you are thinking of collaborating with?

TL: I'm really open to doing anything, although I have done guest spots with OAR. It's really fun to collaborate with anyone.

TDG: What has been your favorite place to play so far?
TL: It would have to be Red Rocks in Denver. I played there with Rob Thomas and Jewel in late June of this year.

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Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

8/29/06

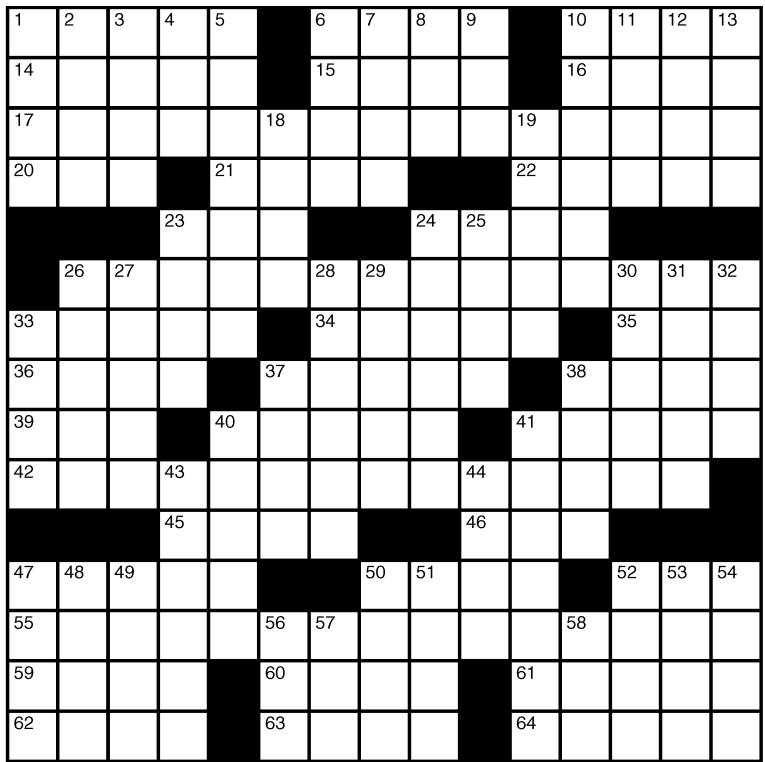
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garnet&black
Interest Meeting

Tonight 7pm
RHUU 322

- ACROSS**
- 1 Fragrant compound
 - 6 Abrupt yank
 - 10 Part of U.A.E.
 - 14 Hindu mystic
 - 15 Zeno's home
 - 16 Author Jaffe
 - 17 Seconds
 - 20 UFO passengers
 - 21 "Trinity" author
 - 22 Sen. Kefauver
 - 23 Highland hat
 - 24 Cautionary word
 - 26 Seconds
 - 33 Duty lists
 - 34 Encourages
 - 35 Unit of resistance
 - 36 Bailiff's call
 - 37 Hollywood idols
 - 38 Great Plains tribe
 - 39 Mal de _
 - 40 Nearby
 - 41 Shape of fashion
 - 42 Seconds
 - 45 Shapes with an axe
 - 46 Wall St. debut
 - 47 Unmoving
 - 50 Shapely fruit
 - 52 Slugger's stat
 - 55 Seconds
 - 59 Movie dog
 - 60 Prison uprising
 - 61 Mist
 - 62 Putin's refusal
 - 63 Auto pioneer
 - 64 Gladden

- DOWN**
- 1 Salinger lass
 - 2 "M*A*S*H" co-star Loretta
 - 3 Summer shades
 - 4 Ostrichlike bird
 - 5 Formalized acts
 - 6 "Star Wars" characters
 - 7 Wallach and



- Whitney
- 8 RPM word
- 9 Bandleader
- Winding
- 10 Grain bristle
- 11 Cheer
- 12 Frank or Francis
- 13 Quartet member
- 18 Witty Bombeck
- 19 Transmits
- 23 Afternoon socials
- 24 Thermometer increment
- 25 Change for a five
- 26 Senior member
- 27 In _ (unborn)
- 28 Private teachers
- 29 Discarded material
- 30 Out
- 31 Leather strip
- 32 "Peter Pan" pirate
- 33 "Arrivederci _"

Solutions from Monday's Crossword

R	A	T	S	K	I	F	F	P	A	S	S	E
O	D	E	O	I	L	E	R	A	S	H	E	N
B	E	N	B	U	S	I	N	E	S	S	F	O
E	L	L	I	P	S	E	D	E	C	A	T	U
S	E	E	R	E	D	S	M	A	R	B	L	Y
A	C	A	D	P	O	P	L	A	R			
S	I	G	H	S	C	U	R	E	S	O	I	L
T	R	U	K	I	L	M	E	R	S	T	A	B
S	E	E	P	B	O	O	S	K	A	H	N	S
D	E	S	I	G	N	G	I	D	E			
C	H	I	D	E	E	L	O	A	R	C	O	
R	E	P	A	V	E	S	O	P	E	N	B	A
A	P	P	L	E	M	O	U	T	H	B	O	A
S	T	E	E	R	A	T	S	E	A	N	N	E
S	A	R	D	S	P	E	A	R	Y	G	E	R

- 37 Did in a dragon
- 38 Spicy stew
- 40 Huntley and Atkins
- 41 Authorize
- 43 Scare tactic
- 44 O'Flaherty or Neeson
- 47 Lendl of tennis
- 48 Too curious
- 49 Diminutive ending
- 50 Rouse to action
- 51 Dines
- 52 Philbin's co-host
- 53 Word with camp or out
- 54 Concerning
- 56 To and _
- 57 Slick liquid
- 58 Russian chess master

Quigmans ♦ By Buddy Hickerson



"I've heard those electric cars go a lot faster if you take the governor off of them."

A College Girl Name Joe ♦ By Aaron Warner



Sudoku

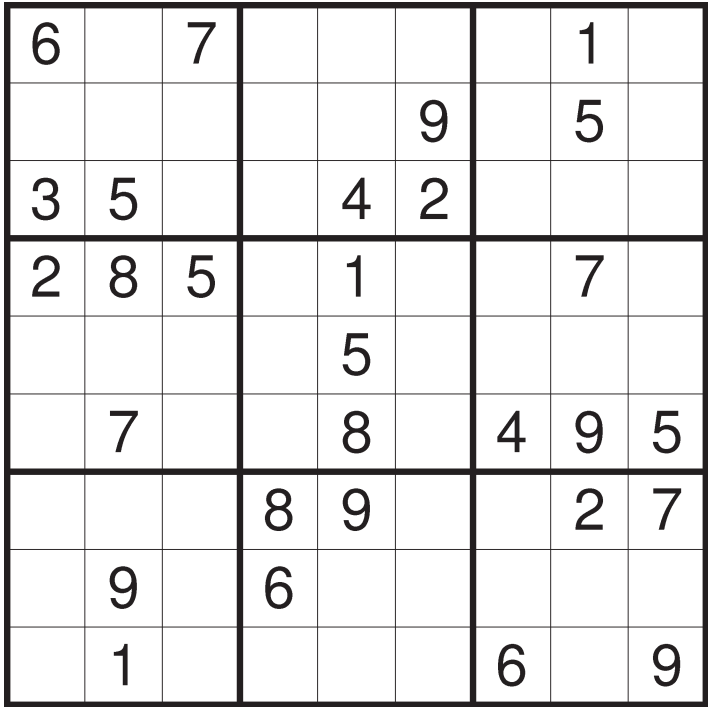
By Michael Mephram

08/29/06

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The Daily Gamecock

Intrest meeting
Tonight 8-9pm
RHUU 304



Level 1 2 3 4

How to Play
Complete the grid so each row, column AND 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. Check online at dailygamecock.com for previous puzzles

Solutions from Monday's Sudoku

2	8	1	7	3	5	4	9	6
7	5	9	8	6	4	2	1	3
4	6	3	9	1	2	8	5	7
1	9	5	6	2	3	7	8	4
3	2	8	1	4	7	5	6	9
6	4	7	5	8	9	3	2	1
8	7	6	4	5	1	9	3	2
9	1	2	3	7	8	6	4	5
5	3	4	2	9	6	1	7	8

HOROSCOPES

ARIES You can get the money you need to improve your working conditions. Speed things up so you can make more for less.
TAURUS Choose a partner with good intuition and a strong personality. Get somebody who'll stay on the right track because you share the same goals.
GEMINI There's too much work and not enough time. So what else is new? Ask family to pitch in.
CANCER You're lucky at games for the next day or two. You'll remember every card that's played. Use this power responsibly.
LEO Your shopping trip could put a big dent in

your budget, so take care. Don't get a lot of stuff you don't need. Be frugal.
VIRGO Your ability to concentrate is incredible over the next two days. There's plenty of information out there. See how much you can commit to memory.
LIBRA Collect an old debt and don't feel the slightest bit guilty about it. Those were the terms you agreed upon, and it's good for all to keep their word.
SCORPIO Work closely with your team. Provide encouragement. They'll do almost anything to please you, so give them a chance.
SAGITTARIUS You're getting a good recommendation

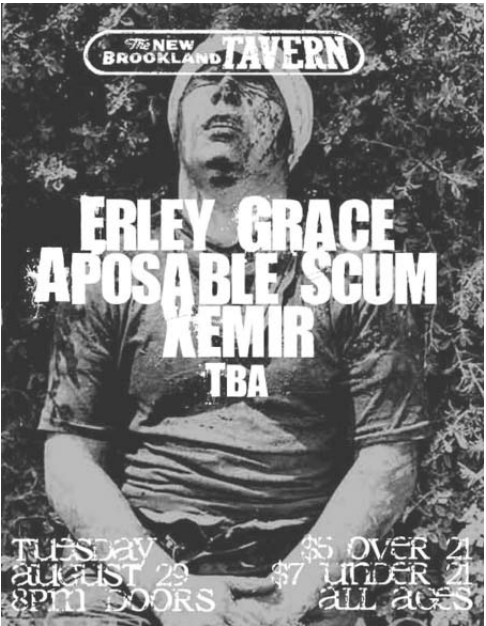
from people you've worked for before. That's the best kind of advertising, and it doesn't cost you a cent.
CAPRICORN Friends provide the assistance you need to achieve your goal. Let them help, and they'll be glad to boost you to the top.
AQUARIUS You may not have felt you had a natural talent for doing business. Today, however, you'll easily increase your financial holdings. Accept a generous offer.
PISCES Encourage the free flow of ideas. You'll get some unusual ones, and some that definitely won't work. But, you'll also get some keepers. So keep fighting.

the scene at USC

Erley Grace...

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COLUMBIA SLAM TEAM - POETRY/SPOKEN WORD: Jammin' Java, 1530 Main St. 7 p.m. \$3 cover.



A Word for the Wise

magnanimous [mag- nan -ub -m ub s] *adj.* -- Generous in forgiving an insult or injury; free from petty resentfulness or vindictiveness: to be magnanimous toward one's enemies.

Ex: My suitemate was so magnanimous when she restocked our toilet paper in our bathroom for the third time this week!

Anticipation

As Thursday's national ESPN debut looms, final practices instill confidence in rookies, injury returnees



Michael Aguilar
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Gamecock football practice let out Monday evening and there was a sense of excitement in the air. The players chattered excitedly and it was obvious that the first game of the season is just a couple days away.

The USC football team is traveling to Starkville, Miss. on Thursday to take on a talented Mississippi State team in the first game of the season. The game is important for many reasons. As with any other first game of a season, the team looks to start out on the right foot, to come out with a bang and show what it is capable of. The fact that this is a conference game makes it even more important. If the Gamecocks want to have any hope of making a run at the SEC East title, they must win games like the one Thursday night.

"It is very important because it is a conference game," USC coach Steve Spurrier said. "Last year we went down to the last day. You always have dreams of winning your conference, regardless."

The team as a whole is ready to get back on the field. After a disappointing finish last season against Missouri in the

PRACTICE ● 13



Juan Blas / THE GAMECOCK

Moves bolster football rosters

Regional NFL favorites add depth to lineups with key new additions

AJ Bembry
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

As NFL training camps and preseason games come to a close and teams round out their final rosters, clubs tend to bear a slight resemblance to their previous season's roster. Three of the primary NFL teams that claim fans in this region (and unanimous preseason playoff contenders), the Atlanta Falcons, Carolina Panthers, and Washington Redskins, have been at the forefront of the NFL's annual roster turnover.

The Falcons, stumbling to an 8-8 record last season a year removed from a trip to the NFC Championship Game, made some big splashes in free agency and trading. General Manager Rich McKay saw the Falcons' most pressing need to be defense; he responded by trading a first-round pick to the Jets for All-Pro defensive end (and former Gamecock standout) John Abraham, and signing run-stuffers safety Lawyer Milloy (Buffalo) and defensive tackle Grady Jackson (Green Bay). The Falcons also drafted Virginia Tech cornerback Jimmy Williams

in the second round to complement Pro-Bowler DeAngelo Hall. Linebacker Ed Hartwell, signed as a free agent (Baltimore) before the 2005 season, is also a relative newcomer, as he is returning from a devastating Achilles injury he suffered in a September game against the Bills.

Not everything was rosy for Atlanta, however, as solid possession receiver Brian Finneran went down in camp with a season-ending knee injury. To fill his void, the Falcons shipped talented running back TJ Duckett to the Redskins in a complicated three-way deal that culminated in Denver wideout Ashley Lelie heading to the Falcons.

The Panthers, division rivals with the Falcons, are coming off a blowout loss in the NFC Championship game to the Seattle Seahawks that illustrated the Panthers' dependence on Pro-Bowl wideout Steve Smith. The Seahawks were able to shut down the Panthers' offense by keying in on Smith and rattling quarterback Jake Delhomme. Carolina's front office made great strides to fix that issue by signing Keyshawn Johnson (Dallas) to start opposite Smith and give Delhomme more options. GM Marty Hurney and company also drafted Memphis standout DeAngelo Williams to solidify the oft-injured



Rick Hovner/The Associated Press

Receiver Keyshawn Johnson is a new face hoping to help give the Panthers a legitimate second receiving threat.

Leaving Charlotte in free agency this year was stalwart linebacker Will Witherspoon, who signed with St. Louis, and cornerback Ricky Manning, Jr., who fled to Chicago. Na'il Diggs (Green Bay) was brought in to soften the loss of Witherspoon, and solidify a defense many think is Super Bowl-caliber.

Creative management has allowed Washington some flexibility with the NFL's stringent salary cap, allowing the Skins to sign the multi-talented Antwaan Randle-El (Pittsburgh) to catch passes with Santana Moss. Washington also brought in underrated wideout Brandon Lloyd (San Francisco) and tight end Christian Fauria (New England) to give Mark Brunell a plethora of options. While no one is sure how long standout running back Clinton Portis is going to be out with a

shoulder injury, the Skins addressed a need in trading for the aforementioned Duckett. The bruising former first-round pick fit poorly in the Falcons' cut-and-slash running scheme and should prove to be a competent fill-in for Portis while he recovers.

Washington's only significant loss during the off-season was linebacker LaVar Arrington, a healthy scratch during most of the 2005 season. Since Arrington reportedly bristled under Joe Gibbs' coaching regime, he was allowed to buy out his own contract, choosing to sign with the NFC East rival Giants. Although Washington's defense performed without him, Arrington's defection to the Meadowlands could prove dangerous for the Redskins' title hopes.

Comments on this story?
E-mail gckspmts@gum.sc.edu

Writer's question leads to heart of runner's motives

Thrill of self-competition provides purpose to those who pound the pavement

Sitting at the Fall Sports Luncheon, I watched as another reporter came up to junior cross country runner Karen Wigal and asked her, "Why do you run?"

Being a runner, I initially laughed at the question. I hate that question. It ranks up there with chafing and 8-year-olds yelling out "Run, Forrest, run."

(By the way you little punk on the swing set, there is no way you have ever seen that movie, and even if you have, who quotes "Forrest Gump" these days? That's all I have to say about that.)

However, just as chafing can be cured by wearing a special cotton/polyester blend and just as that 8-year-old can be dunked on in a game of one-on-one, the "Why do you run" question isn't really that bad. Actually, it is a pretty legitimate inquiry.

Why would anybody want to get up at some obscene

hour in the morning when the furry woodland creatures aren't even up? Why would someone volunteer to participate in an activity that all other sports use as punishment? Why would a person compete in a sport with a nonexistent fan base in the United States?

Why? I could go on for hours.

For most people, running just doesn't make sense. Sure, there are the health benefits, but who cares about that? After all, this is the country where "cheeseburger" has replaced "O" as the most common blood type.

Regardless, running for a college cross-country team is wildly different than jogging every other day for fitness.

To run competitively in any form or fashion, you have to be a little bit crazy, and not like Gnarls Barkley. I don't think Cee-Lo has moved quickly ... ever.

But the key to being a good runner is tricking the brain into letting the body be abused.

In the Aug. 15, 1955 issue of Sports Illustrated, Paul O'Neil wrote, "The art of running the mile consists, in essence, of reaching the threshold of unconsciousness



Tom Benning
Second-year journalism student

Water polo rises above lack of support, funding

Jackie Alexander
NEWS EDITOR

Water polo is the only sport where more than 100 men can walk around in Speedos and no one stares. Members of the USC water polo team competed in the PowerBar tournament at the Dynamo Community Swim Center in Atlanta this weekend. The team consisted of three students, Sara Smith, Kenneth Bryan and Boris Kurktchiev, and eight members of a team based in Charlotte. The USC water polo team has only played as a full team once.

Kurktchiev, a fourth-year computer science student and captain, said the team does not get enough funding from Student Government to fund full-team excursions. The team received \$200 in student activity fees for the year. Registering the team alone costs \$300, Kurktchiev said. It can cost from \$300-500 to register for a single tournament without counting travel experience and according to Kurktchiev, they pay for most of it themselves. "We're hoping if more people come out, student government will give us more money," Bryan said. At the tournament, the team faced the Atlanta Rainbow Trout first. Kurktchiev saw red after being ejected from the pool. "Boris gets kicked out a lot," Smith said. After three ejections, Kurktchiev said a player is ejected from the game, the equivalent of a red card in

soccer. "That's what happens when I guard the hole," Kurktchiev said. "So Boris does not go to hole anymore." The hole is a position directly in front of the goal, which is guarded more closely than the other positions. Bryan could be heard throughout the pool yelling, and occasionally cursing, when a ball got past him at the goal. "He's so hard on himself," Smith said. After getting out the pool, Smith was heaving and Bryan sported a few red scratches. "We fight in those pools," Smith said, although a good referee can see most fouls. The team played two other games, which both resulted in losses. "We've never been this blown-out in a tournament before," Bryan said. Kurktchiev said once the team has at least 14 members, it would be easier to practice, if the lifeguards let them. The team currently plays in the diving well at Blatt PEC, which is small for its current 10 members. They are not allowed in the swimming lanes because they use "unauthorized floating devices," or balls. Lifeguards also tell them they are not allowed to move the diving stands, which could cause serious injury to a player. "It's a pain to get the aquatics director and lifeguards to work together," Kurktchiev said. The group is very tight-knit and spends time with each other regularly outside the pool, Smith said.

Comments on this story? E-mail gckspmts@gwm.sc.edu

Capital City Sports Show

Every Tuesday @ 4 p.m.

Tune in to WUSC Tuesday at 4 p.m. for the Capital City Sports Show featuring hosts Matt Moore and Tom Benning. They will be previewing the upcoming Mississippi State game with special guest Alex Riley, Sports editor of The Daily Gamecock.

They'll also be previewing the opening weekend of the SEC and ACC season and the USC cross country team's season.

PRACTICE • Continued from 12

players feel as if they have something to prove. Beyond even that, many of the young players are excited to be playing in their first nationally televised game in front of a real Division I college football crowd. "First time for so many players," Spurrier said. "First time to get a chance to go play on national TV. The Brinkley brothers, man, I don't think they had big crowds so those guys are

BENNING • Continued from 12

at the instant of breasting the tape." It was true in 1955 and it is still true today — long-distance runners and other endurance athletes are the most mentally tough athletes on this planet. There is a reason for the lack of widespread popularity. Other sports are certainly

ready to go. So many of our guys are playing for the first time." There were many good signs after practice as many players that had been slightly injured or questionable have been cleared. According to Spurrier, sophomore wide receiver Sidney Rice, senior offensive guard Thomas Coleman, freshman cornerback Captain Munnerlyn and senior wide receiver Syvelle Newton are ready to go. Newton is coming off of a long layoff after tearing his

Achilles' tendon last season. After a long off-season on crutches and taxing physical therapy, Newton has been a leader on and off the field in the past weeks. He has shown an attitude of excitement about the start of the season. "I'm ready to play, I'm ready to get back on the field," Newton said. "You know I haven't played football in eight to nine months. It's going to feel great to go out Thursday and play against a Mississippi State team that's going to be

real good. They're going to be ready to play football and we are too." The team as a whole had a good practice and is more than ready to get out on the field on Thursday and show what they have been preparing for all off-season. Everything has finally fallen into place and all that is left is to sit back and watch what the Gamecocks are made of.

Comments on this story? E-mail gckspmts@gwm.sc.edu

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